

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) Process for the production of a sweetening salt with an aspartame cation and an acesulfame anion according to the formula APMH[[*]]Aee[[]], characterized in that said process comprising reacting aspartame or an aspartame derivative is reacted with acesulfamic acid in a solvent selected from one or several of the following solvents:
 - [[-]] liquid SO₂[[],];
 - [[-]] halogenated aliphatic hydrocarbons[[],];
 - [[-]] carbonate esters with low, aliphatic alcohols[[],];
 - [[-]] nitroalkanes[[],];
 - [[-]] alkyl disubstituted pyridines[[],]; and
 - [[-]] aliphatic sulfones.
2. (Currently Amended) Process according to claim 1, characterized in that wherein the aspartame derivative is a compound selected from: neotame, alitame, and as well as structural variants of based on aspartame, neotame and alitame.
3. (Currently Amended) Process according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in that wherein the concentration of acesulfamic acid in the reactive solution is between 0.3 wt. % and 50 wt. %.
4. (Currently Amended) Process according to one of the claim[[s]] 1 to 3, characterized in that wherein the stoichiometric ration ratio of aspartame or the aspartame derivative to the acesulfamic acid is 1:1.

5. (Currently Amended) Process according to ~~one of the claim[[s]] 1 to 4, characterized in that wherein~~ the stoichiometric ratio of aspartame or the aspartame derivative to acesulfamic acid is between 0.005:99.995 and 99.995:0.005.
6. (Currently Amended) Process according to ~~one of the claim[[s]] 1 to 5, characterized in that wherein~~ the reaction is carried out in a range of temperature of between -95°C to +126°C.
7. (Currently Amended) Process according to ~~one of the claim[[s]] 1 to 6, characterized in that wherein~~ the sweetening salt is recrystallized.
8. (Currently Amended) Process according to claim 7, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the recrystallization is carried out in a solvent mixture.
9. (Currently Amended) Process according to claim 7 or 8, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the solvent mixture contains two or several of the solvents selected from water, acetone and C₁-C₄ alcohol.
10. (Currently Amended) Process according to ~~one of claim[[s]] 7 to 9, characterized in that wherein~~ the solvent mixture consists of water and acetone.
11. (Currently Amended) Process according to ~~one of the claim[[s]] 7 to 10, characterized in that wherein~~ the recrystallization is carried out at a temperature of -35°C to +30°C.
12. (Currently Amended) Sweetening salt[[,]] consisting of ~~the two sweetener components an~~ aspartame cation and ~~an~~ acesulfame anion, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the decomposition of the ~~sweetening salt into diketopiperazine~~ is smaller than 0.005 wt. % ~~diketopiperazine (DKP), if when~~ the salt is heated for 240 min at 120°C, or ~~if it when the~~ salt is heated at 130°C for 60 min.

13. (Currently Amended) Salt according to claim 12, characterized in that it wherein said salt features a potassium content less than 50 ppm.

14. (Currently Amended) Use of sweetening salt APMH[+] Ace[-] according to claim 12 in food Food, beverages, pharmaceuticals and cosmetics comprising a salt according to claim 12.